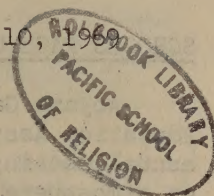


JAPAN CHRISTIAN ACTIVITY NEWS

PUBLISHED BIMONTHLY BY NATIONAL CHRISTIAN COUNCIL OF JAPAN
Editorial Committee: Helen Post-- Stanley Manierre-- Akiko Yamaguchi

No. 346 - June 10, 1969



IN THIS ISSUE:

Plan Asian Development Conference
Schools Face Crises at Many Levels
Canadian-Japanese Seminar on China
Tourism Seminar
Lee Reports on Racism Conference
Missionaries to Visit Soka Gakkai Taiseikiji
Japan Bishops' Conference
Music Festival Draws Crowd
Japan Ecumenical Association Formed
Secularization and Disbelief Studied
Deaths--Mibai, Dozier
Headline-making Events

CATHOLICS, PROTESTANTS TO CO-SPONSOR ASIAN CONFERENCE ON DEVELOPMENT

Asian Catholics and Protestants will cooperate in a major conference on Development, according to plans announced by Fr. Johannes Schutte, vice chairman of the steering committee, following a meeting of the planning committee held in Kyoto, June 5-7.

The Ecumenical Asian Conference on Development, to be co-sponsored by the East Asia Christian Conference and SODEPAX (The World Council of Churches-Vatican Commission on Society, Development and Peace) will be held in Japan in July, 1970.

General T. B. Simatupang, Indonesia, and Archbishop Angelo I. Fernandes, India, were named co-chairmen of the 1970 Conference, with an additional chairman, from Japan, to be named soon. General Secretary U Kyaw Than, of the EACC, was named chairman of the steering committee, and Fr. Schutte, vice chairman.

Appointed executive secretary of the Conference is Dr. In Ha Lee, interim general secretary of the Japan National Christian Council. Assisting him will be Toshio Suzuki and Norbert Hans Klein.

Citing the importance of the churches' taking up the issue of Development at this point in history, Dr. Lee said, "The fact that UNCTAD (The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development) failed to bring all nations to a common commitment of 1% of their GNP (gross national product) for Development means that men are still not ready to live responsibly with regard to their neighbors. It is the responsibility of the Christian Church to challenge and stimulate the peoples of the world to fulfill their responsibility toward their neighbor. If the Church fails in this task, it fails to fulfill the Great Commandment."

Dr. Lee said that at a recent international conference a World Council of Churches leader said, "Japan is in a key position to deal with the issue of Development. The churches in Japan have issued their Confession of War Guilt; but unless this leads to action, it will be only a matter of words."

SUBSCRIPTION RATES JAPAN ¥700 FOREIGN-SEA MAIL \$2.50 AIR MAIL \$4.00
Cable Code: JAPACONCIL, Address: Christian Center 2-4 Ginza Chuo-ku, Tokyo Japan

"For this reason," Dr. Lee said, "I feel this Conference on Development is extremely important for the Church in Japan and should challenge us to take steps that will produce concrete actions."

Lecturers and consultants will be invited from government agencies, from Christian and non-Christian agencies working in concerns related to Development, and from among Asian laymen and youth. Each country will send participants.

SCHOOLS FACE CRISES AT MANY LEVELS

Aoyama Gakuin Chancellor Kinjiro Ohki was re-elected chairman of the Education Association of Christian Schools (Kirisutokyo Kyoiku Domei) at the annual meeting held May 22-23 at Tokyo Christian Woman's College, Tokyo, in an atmosphere that mirrored the current unrest on campuses.

After heated discuss on at the plenary session on Friday morning, the Domei voted to issue a declaration requesting the government and the ruling Liberal Democratic Party to reconsider the "education control" bill which has been presented to the Lower House of the Diet. The meeting voted down a resolution calling for "absolute opposition" to the bill in favor of a more cautiously worded statement that opposes giving priority to the use of law enforcement bodies over the personnel endeavors of educators to solve university problems. These should be soon not just as "university problems" but essentially as an education problem," the statement said.

Discussions of the Education bill at this year's meeting, and of the Yasukuni Shrine bill at last year's meeting, indicate that the Domei, which has in the past been primarily concerned with research and training progrmas, is being called on to exercise an increasing function with regard to administrative and political problems touching the Christian schools. Chancellor Ohki reported the executive committee's feelings, however, that certain issues, such as that of textbook revisions, could best be handled in the more widely-based private schools association, which represents a stronger force on the Japanese scene.

Campus disputes took their toll as a number of administrators of major Christian universities, long active in Domei affairs, were unable to attend because of local crises. The usually-routine reporting of personnel changes in member shcools showed twice as many personnel changes among heads of schools and of departments as in the previous year with, in some cases, a complete turn-over in department leadership.

Along with the many other burdens schools are facing, the Domei members found themselves confronted with a sharp decrease in funds from abroad which have helped to finance the Domei's programs of research and publication.

CANADIAN AND JAPANESE STUDENTS TO STUDY CHINA'S GREAT CULTURAL REVOLUTION

"What the Great Cultural Revolution in China Means for Us" is the theme of a 10-day Seminar being held for fourteen university students coming to Japan from Canada and ten Japanese students. Sponsors are the Student Christian Movement of Canada, the Student YMCA and YWCA of Japan, and the World Student Christian Federation.

On each day of the Seminar, to be held at Tozanso International Center in Gotemba, a separate aspect of the Cultural Revolution will be taken up, with lectures, discussion and reference to basic texts. Yutaka Shishido, Kyodo News Agency, will be dean of the Seminar, with Neil Burton of Canada and Ray Whitehead of Hong Kong serving as tutors.

Specific topics to be dealt with include Mao Tse-tung's thought, political, economic, educational and cultural, and scientific and technological aspects of contemporary China, and a critical look at the Cultural Revolution.

TOURISM SEMINAR TO BE HELD AT KANSAI ACADEMY HOUSE

In the midst of the contemporary "leisure boom" in Japan and the ever-increasing volume of domestic and international tourism, the Kansai Seminar House of the Japan Academy Movement will be host to a Seminar on Tourism, June 21-22.

Persons participating in the Seminar will include those 1) in the business of taking care of arrangements for tourists; 2) responsible for transporting tourists; 3) in groups of agencies which make use of tourist facilities; and 4) involved in research on tourism.

The speakers will be: Tomiharu Hisada, director, Japan Travel Bureau, Kansai Branch on "The Problems of Tourism Today"; Hidetoshi Kato, Kyoto University, on "The Thought Patterns of Tourism"; Masao Takenaka, Doshisha University, on "The Meaning of Leisure."

Sponsors of the Seminar are Katsumi Matsumura, director, Kansai Seminar House and professor, Kwansei Gakuin University; Norisuke Kawamura, chairman, Japan Tourist Research Association, and professor, Kansai University; and Ichizo Okuyama, chairman, Kyoto Tourism Society.

On the world-level, Miss Misa Namikawa, director, COC Public Relations office, has been invited to attend the World Council of Churches-sponsored conference on "The Impact of Leisure Tourism on Man and Society," scheduled to be held in Tutzing, Germany, Sept. 26-October 2.

LEE REPORTS ON RACISM CONFERENCE

"An atmosphere of tension and foreboding" characterized the WCC Conference on Racism, held in London in May. Dr. In Ha Lee, interim general secretary of NCC, reported to the NCC central committee at its June 2 meeting. Dr. Lee, who is also executive secretary of the Korean Christian Church in Japan, was one of 60 delegates and 60 consultants and observers from all continents who assembled at Notting Hill Center for what was described as the "first consultation of its kind in world church history." Four of the delegates were Asians.

The conference, chaired by Democratic Senator George McGovern, U.S. drew up recommendations for the WCC's Central Committee in August proposing a "programme of action and education" for the 234 WCC-member churches which would involve direct attempts to eradicate racism and eliminate political and economic tyranny.

The immediacy of the issue was evident as two pressure groups made themselves heard. One was composed of Englishmen and South Africans who defended the South African government's segregation policy and spoke of the need to exile a million blacks from England. The other was composed of representatives from Black Power groups from the U.S. and Africa, demanding "reparations" amounting to \$500 billion. Dr. Eugene Carson Blake, WCC secretary general, replied by saying that the very purpose of this conference was to reflect on past failures in the church in order to do some thing about them in the present and the future.

Participants agreed that "racial identity" is a major problem and that for too many years the color of a man's skin, rather than his abilities or his rights as a human being, has been the primary factor determining his social and economic situation. They agreed on the need for more dialogue but noted also that real dialogue depends on there being a balance of power.

The Consultation recognized the existence of the problem of the "powerless." This fact in itself, it was said, is a sign that God is exercising his justice in the very recognition of the need for men--both black and white--to face up to His Judgment. For both non-white and white, a "theology of the powerless" is essential.

It is impossible to satisfy peoples who are "powerless" with a message of meekness and humility that merely aids the spread of status-quoism. A theology must be developed which leads to equal distribution of power. This theology, of course, must be grounded in the theme of Redemption as it runs through the Old and New Testaments and is relevant now to the contemporary situation.

Dr. Lee said, "When I suggested that the Japanese might be mediators in the present crisis because they are neither black nor white but of the yellow race, the response was "No. Black, white, yellow, each must fight the battle in its own way". He reported that Japan was looked upon with disdain by many at the conference.

An Indian participant said Japan appears to be living off the cream of Asia, while a South African claimed that the Japanese have "the honorary status of whites" so need to learn more of the tragedy of the black people.

The fact that the economic gap between peoples is a key point in Racism makes of added importance the coming Development Conference, to be sponsored by the East Asia Christian Conference in Japan in 1970, Dr. Lee said.

MISSIONARIES TO VISIT SOKA GAKKAI'S TAISEKIJ

The Fellowship of Christian Missionaries will meet this year around the theme of Christianity and Other Religions, according to FCM chairman Ken Heim. Assembling at Motosoku Lodge in Yamanashi-ken from 2:00 p.m. Tuesday, July 15 through noon, Thursday, July 17, the conferees will spend Wednesday, July 16 at Taisekiji, the main headquarters and assembly site of Soka Gakkai, flourishing Nichiren Buddhist sect.

Speakers at FCM sessions before and following the visit to Taisekiji will be: Rev. Cyril Powles, on "The Christian Thinking About Non-Christian Religions in the History of the Church," and David Reid on "Major Options Today in Thinking Concerning Non-Christian Religions." Clark Offner will direct group discussion activities. Dr. Kenneth Heim will provide the Biblical statement.

The 1969 Annual FCM Conference is open to non-FCM members, as well as members, although accommodations at Motosoku Lodge are limited to 125 persons. Reservations are being accepted on a first come-first served basis. Advance registration of ¥500, or payment of the total conference cost of ¥3,000 per person, including registration fee, can be sent to the Rev. Glenn G. Gano, 3-9, 1-chome, Misaki-cho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo. (Furikae No. Gurenogano, Tokyo 63852.)

JAPAN BISHOPS' CONFERENCE APPROVES CHANGES

The Japan Bishops Conference, meeting in Tokyo May 13-21, took several actions of wide interest, according to the full report in Tosei News, May 31. The Conference is composed of Roman Catholic bishops from the sixteen dioceses and is presided over by President Tatsuo Cardinal Doi.

The Conference approved vernacular texts of Canon IV and the Prefaces and authorized their publication; agreed to seek permission to transfer all feasts of obligation, except Christmas, to the following Sunday and to allow the "Sunday Mass" obligation to be fulfilled on Saturday afternoon in certain designated churches. Genuflections and veneration of the altar will be changed to a profound bow with joined hands.

The Conference also approved the option of membership in the Christian Literature Center and participation in the Christian Distribution Center for the 27 Catholic publishing houses, giving them access to secular bookshops in Japan. Some Protestant books will become available at Catholic booksellers. Establishment of an Information Center (Kohoshitsu) at the National Catholic Commission of Japan was approved, looking toward closer cooperation among all Catholic mass media.

MUSIC FESTIVAL AGAIN DRAWS APPRECIATIVE CROWD

The Music Festival held at St. Mary's Catholic Cathedral on Sunday afternoon, June 10, brought together in a common experience of music appreciation and worship a capacity crowd of persons from many different streams of Christian experience.

The pure tones of a shakuhachi (bamboo pipe), expanding to fill the sweeping dome of the great concrete Cathedral, provided the climax of a program performed by Roman Catholic, Lutheran, Episcopalian, Russian Orthodox and United Church choirs. The music was by Western composers, with the exception of one number by Saburo Takada from a new series for Catholic masses. Russian Orthodox singers participated for the first time, Fr. Akihiro Tsuji chanting the Scripture reading.

JAPAN ECUMENICAL ASSOCIATION FORMED

The Japan Ecumenical Association was formed on May 24 (see JCAN, May 10, page 2) of clergy and laity primarily from Episcopalian, Roman Catholic Lutheran and United Churches, although with the hope of creating a wide circle of individuals concerned with ecumenical studies and dialogue.

Elected as directors were: Bishop Makoto Goto, Dr. Isamu Omura, Bishop Shojiro Itoh, Rev. Gosaku Okada, and Archbishop Asajirow Satowaki. Executive secretaries are Fr. Joseph Spae, CICM, Fr. P. Pfister, SJ., Fr. Takehiro Kunii, CP, Rev. Cyril Powles, and Rev. Ryoza Hara; treasurer is Fr. F. F. Uyttendaele, CICM. Offices will be maintained at Oriens Institute for Religions Research.

SECULARIZATION AND DISBELIEF IN ASIA

The Non-Believer and the Believer in Asia may well find their common meeting ground in the area of "intuition," Asian representatives suggested at a Seminar on Secularization and Disbelief in Asia," held under the sponsorship of the Secretariat for Non-Believers of the Vatican, in Kamishakuji, near Tokyo, June 1-4. Persons from nine Asian countries joined three representatives from the Secretariat in Rome in an exchange of information on conditions in each country and discussion of how to further research and dialogue with Non-Believers.

The Vatican Secretariat for Non-Believers is an outgrowth of Vatican II, paralleling the Secretariat for Non-Christians. It is concerned with dialogue with "positive atheists," including Marxists, intelligentsia who disclaim any religious belief, and persons nominally religious but in reality disdainful or negative toward belief.

Early in the Conference, Asian priests expressed their doubts about the application of "secularization" defined by European experience, to Asia. They suggested that "desacralization" would be a more appropriate term, denoting the relinquishment by traditional religions of their former positions in their societies.

Discussion brought out how increasing modernization and industrial development are undermining belief in mythologies, heightening man's sense of independence as opposed to utter dependence on prayer, and equipping him to make objective judgments.

Discussing the desirability for dialogue with non-believers on various levels, Asian participants tended to feel that in Asia the best opportunity lies in the mystical or existential rather than in philosophical truths, sociology or studies of differences in belief. "Many Asian religions are highly intuitive in nature," said one participant. "Our starting point may well be the common experience of 'something beyond ourselves' that creates a bond, rather than attempts to exchange philosophical views.

TWO RECENT DEATHS

Dr. Edwin B. Dozier, 61, chancellor of Seinan Gakuin University, died May 10 in Fukuoka. Dr. Dozier was the son of the late C. K. Dozier, who founded Seinan University in 1916. Dr. Dozier had been decorated by the Emperor in April for his contributions to education. He was a member of the Hoshiguma Church of the Baptist Remmei.

Dr. Sugi Mibai, who was president of Baika Gakuen from 1949 to 1956 and, prior to that, professor of psychology at Kobe College for many years, died May 25, at the age of 78. Dr. Mibai was educated at Baika, Kobe College, Mills College, the University of Michigan and Western Reserve. She was a leading figure in women's education in Japan as well as a scholar in the field of psychiatry.

////////////////////

HEADLINE-MAKING EVENTS

compiled by Ichiji Yokota

WEST GERMAN CHANCELLOR KIESINGER AND PRIME MINISTER SATO agreed to maintain close consultation on the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, when Kiesinger visited Japan for five days during May.

TV WILL CARRY THE VIEWS OF MAJOR POLITICAL CANDIDATES according to the revised Public Officials Election Law approved by the Diet and calling for public sponsorship of such an over-all view, in the case of top posts.

CHAIRMAN UEMURA OF KEIDANREN, Federation of Economic Organizations, said, at the 30th regular meeting of the Federation that they would 1) make every effort to achieve the merger of Yahata and Fuji steel companies and 2) support maintenance of the Security Treaty and the increase of Japan's self-defense resources.

IN SPITE OF A NATIONAL EMPHASIS ON TRAFFIC SAFETY, 45 more persons died during the 10 days of the campaign this year than during the campaign a year ago. During the 10-day period, 326 persons died, 23,165 were injured.

JAPAN'S AID TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES in 1968 (in both governmental and commercial categories) exceeded 1 billion dollars, according to Foreign Ministry reports.

THE JAPAN DERBY SET NEW RECORDS--in number of persons in attendance and in proceeds if not in running time. Daishin Bolgado won the 36th race held May 25 in Tokyo.

ASIAN NATIONS COMPLETED THE ASPAC CONFERENCE (the ministerial conference of the Asia and Pacific Council) with emphasis on the Council's role in furthering regional economic cooperation rather than on military alliances. It was apparent other Asian nations are counting heavily on Japanese participation.